

NEMA LS-1 Discussion

Since 1992, NEMA LS-1 has been utilized by the TVSS industry to help specifying engineers and customers create specifications for TVSS devices. The document itself was not a test document ; but rather, was designed and developed for the purpose of being a guide for specification formatting by the industry. Unfortunately, the document fell into ill repute as some manufacturers attempted to use it and make it more than it was intended to be. Specifically, tests were called out as required per NEMA LS-1 when in fact, no test parameters or reference to test parameters were in existence for these “tests”. Additionally, with the introduction of ANSI/UL 1449-2006 (Third Edition), some of the definitions and specification requirements in NEMA LS-1 became outdated.

As a result of the above, the NEMA 5VS section for Low Voltage Surge Protective Devices determined that the best course of action was to rescind the NEMA LS-1 standard. This was accomplished and approved by NEMA Codes and Standards in August of this year.

As of this moment, there is no succeeding NEMA standard. IEEE C62.72 and IEEE C62.62 as well as UL 1449 (Third Edition) are the primary standards of reference for surge protective devices.